

**RCRA Compliance Branch  
YAUCO MUNICIPAL LANDFILL INSPECTION REPORT**

<b>Inspection Date(s):</b>	11/28/2018	<b>Inspection Announced:</b> Yes
<b>Facility or Site Name:</b>	Yauco Municipal Landfill	
<b>Facility/Site Physical Location:</b>	PR 389	
<b>(city, state, zip code)</b>	Yauco, Puerto Rico 00698	
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Casa Alcaldía de Yauco, Avenida Santiago Vivaldi	
<b>(city, state, zip code)</b>	Yauco, 00698, Puerto Rico	
<b>Facility/Site Contact:</b>	Larry Soto	City Administrator
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<b>RCRA ID Number:</b>	PRS009000233	
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	17.997411, -66.863042	
<b>Facility/Site Personnel Participating in Inspection:</b>		
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<b>Additional Inspection Report Elements:</b>		
<b>Inspection Report Author:</b>		

Emmie McCleary	<i>EMC</i>	2/5/2018
<b>Supervisor</b>		
Leonard Grossman	<i>[Signature]</i>	2/5/19

## SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

### Purpose of the Inspection Objective

The purpose of the inspection was to determine the facility's compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act's prohibition on open dumps (Sections 7003 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6973 and 4005(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6945(a)). Additionally:

- Evaluate site for possible ET cover

### Opening Conference

EPA Region 2 RCRA inspector McCleary, along with the ORD team, arrived at the Yauco Municipal Solid Waste Landfill at 1230 on November 28 for the inspection and evaluation. We had coordinated our visit with Juan Mercado, a Landfill Engineer for a possible private investor for the Landfill, along with municipal officials, engineers, and consultants as listed above.

### Facility/Site Description

The EPA last inspected Yauco's Municipal Landfill for RCRA Subtitle D compliance and case development for a possible 7003 AOC in November 2016.

Until the beginning of January 2018, the Municipality contracted LandTech as its landfill operator. In early February, LandTech notified local agencies that it will not renew its landfill operator contract with Yauco mostly because, according to LandTech, the landfill has reached its maximum capacity at which it can be operated safely.

As part of hurricane recovery, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been utilizing a small portion of the landfill to store construction and demolition debris (C&D).

According the Municipality during a June 2018 videoconference with EPA, the landfill has ceased receiving municipal solid waste and industrial waste in its sludge pits since February. However, a temporary pile of C&D remains at the landfill.

The Municipality (and formerly LandTech as well) has been pursuing a permit for the construction of new landfill cells.

## **SECTION II – OBSERVATIONS**

At approximately 1300 we started the landfill facility tour. We observed the conditions described below:

- Locked entrance gate;
- C&D lining the street leading up to the front gate;
- Inactive solidification pits;
- The Municipality has been contracted by FEMA to remove the C&D from FEMA's designated C&D area (no larger than 20x20 sq. yd area);
- At the time of the inspection, C&D (both hurricane and non-hurricane related debris), not belonging to FEMA's C&D area, covered the entire length of access road visible to EPA personnel, blocking access to the top of the landfill. EPA personnel estimated that the debris could fill one hundred standard-sized dump trucks. According to municipal officials, the C&D has been brought onto the Landfill property by citizens;
- The Municipality recently acquired equipment to remove the C&D (two days prior to announced EPA inspection)
  - According to a February 4, 2018, conversation with Eng. Juan Carlos Mercado, the private investor has cleaned up approximately 60% of the C&D on site;
- 1.5:1 slopes at multiple areas of the landfill;
- Poor slope stability
- Erosion of the eight to twelve inches of intermediate cover that has been applied throughout the entire landfill
- Leachate seeping out of landfill and contributing to slope erosion
- Based on a large number of vultures circling immediately above the top of the landfill, and according to statements made by other landfill professionals familiar with the recent state of the landfill, it is possible that a pile of open is at the top of the landfill.
- ORD team opined that the site, soil, and native vegetation appeared suitable for an ET cover, however, the steep slopes and remote location of the landfill could be possible issues;
- Inspection concluded at ~1345.

## **SECTION III – AREAS OF CONCERN**

- Unlined open dump in an environmentally sensitive area (including nearby United Nations International Biosphere Reserve)
- Dangerously steep slopes;

- Due to an extremely limited budget, the Mayor and private investor (if the investor becomes the operator) state that the Municipality will be forced to reopen the landfill within six to eight months and will no longer be financially capable of paying to haul Yauco's municipal solid waste to other landfills;
- According to municipal officials (including its technical staff), the Municipality stated that it needs to start opening a new cell in order to close the old cell;
- It is evident that the applied intermediate cover throughout the entire landfill will continue to completely erode without stormwater and leachate controls
- No final cover in place.

### **Closing Conference**

At the end of the inspection, the Municipality reiterated to EPA and JCA that immediate action must be taken to develop the landfill's new cell and close the old cell.